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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/534,491	05/10/2005	Toshiaki Masuda	NPR-170	4972

20374 7590 10/03/2006

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SUITE 710  
900 17TH STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20006

EXAMINER
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BUI, LUAN KIM

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3728

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/534,491

Applicant(s)

MASUDA ET AL:

Examiner

Luan K. Bui

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                       |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/26/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

***Drawings***

1. The drawings are objected to because the foreign words indicate as “sign indicating portion” in Figures 4, 5 and 7 are not cleared the meaning of those words. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance. The objection to the drawings will be withdrawn if Applicant translates the meaning of the foreign words.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

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3. Claims 1-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The phrase "capable of" in claims 1 and others is not a claim element as a means for performing a specified function as required by 35 U.S.C. 112, sixth paragraph.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sharon et al. (2002/0066678; hereinafter Sharon'678) in view of Yoshida et al. (4,961,495; hereafter Yoshida'495) and Shibata (6,491,159). To the extent that the Examiner can determine the scope of the claims, Sharon'678 discloses a plural-chamber container comprising a plurality of chambers (1, 2), a peelable partition wall (4, 8) defined the chambers and a means for indicating the peeling of the partition wall on the plural-chamber containers (see paragraph 0041 to paragraph 0045). Sharon'678 also discloses the other claimed limitations except for the container being formed from a synthetic resin film and the partition wall being by thermally welding.

Yoshida'495 teaches a plural-chamber container (1) comprising a plurality of chambers (2) and a peelable partition wall (5) defined the chambers and formed by thermally welding opposed parts of the container (column 5, lines 19-22 and column 6, lines 41-44). Shibata shows a plural-

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chamber container (1) comprising a plurality of chambers (8, 9) and a peelable partition wall (7) defined the chambers. The container made of a synthetic resin film (see abstract). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art in view of Yoshida'495 and Shibata to modify the container of Sharon'678 so the container is formed from a synthetic resin film as taught by Shibata since it has been held to be within the general skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice and the peelable partition wall is formed by thermally welding as taught by Yoshida'495 because the selection of the specific type of seal would have been an obvious matter of design choice inasmuch as the resultant structures will work equally well and inasmuch as applicant's specification does not state that using that specific type as claimed solves any particular problem or yields any unexpected results.

As to claim 3, Yoshida'495 further teaches pull tabs (13) which are considered equivalent to a sign indicating portion and a sign shielding portion as claimed.

6. Claims 5-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the references as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Hustad (5,064,664). To the extent that the Examiner can determine the scope of the claims, the container of Sharon'678 as modified further fails to show the sign indicating portion and the sign shielding portion being printed on the partition wall. Hustad shows a container comprising a peelable seal (24) disposed between a front panel (21) and a rear panel (22). The front panel formed from a transparent material and the rear panel having a bright color may be printed at the peelable seal to indicate that the container has been opened or tampered (column 4, lines 6-24). It would have been obvious to

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one having ordinary skill in the art in view of Hustad to modify the container of Sharon'678 as modified so the sign indicating portion and the sign shielding portion are printed on the partition wall to provide more convenience for the user and because the selection of the specific type of indicating would have been an obvious matter of design choice inasmuch as the resultant structures will work equally well.

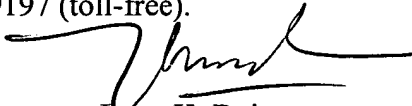
***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Luan K. Bui whose telephone number is 571-272-4552. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on 571-272-4562. **The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300 for Formal papers and After Final communications.**

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

lkb  
September 28, 2006

  
Luan K. Bui  
Primary Examiner  
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